

# STATE OF DELAWARE STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

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## STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

November 19, 2019

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Roberts, Chairman Alan Robinson, Jr., Vice Chairman Ron Marvel Lynn Truitt William C. Kelly Joseph J. Leonetti, Sr. Bill Betts

## ALSO PRESENT

Joseph C. Handlon, Deputy Attorney General Patrick Matthews, BLS Medical Director Sherry Lambertson, Executive Assistant David J. Truax, Investigator/Compliance Officer Mike Chionchio, Assistant State Fire Marshal Robert P. Newnam, Director, State Fire School

#### **GUESTS**

Jay Jones, DVFA
Tom Dicristofaro, DVFA
Robin Brown, OEMS
Bradley M. Gosch, Smyrna American Legion
Mark Harris, Claymont Fire Company
Warren Jones, DVFA
Anthony Spiezio, DTI
Richard Toulson, Seaford Fire Company
Ken Ryder, DVFA
Michael Bundek, Saint Francis Hospital

## **GUESTS cont.**

Patricia A. Fox, DSFS

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chairman Robinson, and seconded by Commissioner Truitt that the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Commission meeting be approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

## Personnel Items

Assistant Fire Marshal Chionchio reported that Fire Marshal Ingle was doing well and anticipated to return to work after the New Year.

Deputy Fire Marshal I vacant position has been posted for Sussex County. Interviews have been scheduled in the near future.

Deputy Fire Marshal IV vacant position is pending at this time. The interview process is anticipated to begin in the near future.

The vacant Administrative Specialist I position posting in Kent County has closed. An eligibility list has been received and interviews will be scheduled in the near future.

Office Manager, Susan Givens has received a 40 year Service Award with the Office of State Fire Marshal. She has been a remarkable employee for the agency. It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Marvel to send Ms. Givens a letter recognizing her 40 years of service. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## FY 2021 Public Budget Hearing

Assistant Fire Marshal Chionchio reported that the FY 2021 Public Budget Hearing was successful.

## DTI – System Upgrades

DTI has successfully completed the upgrading of the service in the Georgetown office to 100 gigabytes to mirror the Dover office.

## **Incidents of Interest**

There have been eleven fire deaths in 2019. Eight of those did have a smoke alarm present and three did not. None of those fires involved a sprinkler system.

There is currently an open case with a triple fatal in the area of Pots Nets. This case is anticipated to close soon. There is also a fatal in the Seaford area that will be closed after a report is received from the electrical engineer.

The office is currently investigating a case where homemade bombs were made in the Hillside Heights area of Newark. The area was closed down for 12 hours during the investigation. The Commission will be kept apprised of the Fire Marshal's findings.

There was a major fire on the coast of Slaughters Beach. The cause of the fire was from a generator that malfunctioned. It sparked a fire on the outside of the house during the afternoon test cycle. Fire was spread to two other homes as well.

There was a fire at Beach Haven Condominiums in Rehoboth Beach. The fire began on the outside of the house and reached the attic of the home.

#### **DFIRS Incidents Received**

## TOTAL STATE PARTICIPATION IN COMPLIANCE 87 %

#### DELINQUENT DEPARTMENTS

| <b>New Castle County</b> |                    |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Townsend                 | August - September |  |  |
| Belvedere                | September          |  |  |
| <b>Kent County</b>       |                    |  |  |
| Cheswold                 | September          |  |  |
| Harrington               | August - September |  |  |
| Houston                  | August – September |  |  |
| Little Creek             | July - September   |  |  |
| Sussex County            |                    |  |  |
| Ellendale                | August – September |  |  |
| Roxana                   | March - May        |  |  |

#### OVERDUE REPORTS BY DAYS

| 30 Days | 60 Days | 90 Days | 90+ Days |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 2       | 4       | 1       | 1        |

Source: DFIRS Incidents received as of 11/6/19.

## REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

## **Director**

- Delaware-New Jersey weekend at the National Fire Academy, May 2-3, 2020
- Near future discussions by NFPA on "Recertification" requirements
- NREMT age change review
  - o Met with St. Georges Sussex Tech and Polytech currently no programs
  - Recommend pilot program to test St. George's student's practical State card at 18.
    - No change to current DSFS policy or Educational Policy of 18 at class start.
- Student Injury
  - o twisted knee, Forcible entry evolution refused treatment
  - o fingers, door closed on hand, Structural refused treatment
  - o separated shoulder In-service Fire Attack tripped transported
  - o shoulder, Phase V prop, Search evolution, fell refused treatment
- Room reservations for outside agencies suspended Nov. April 2020 due to building construction.
- Public Budget Hearing attended 11/05/19 Proceeded as normal.

## **Staff Activities**

- Sprinkler DEMO, 10/30/19 O'Malley, Baker, Fox, Lowe
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Fire Safety Summit Edison, NJ 12/3-4, O'Malley
- Philadelphia FD Incident Command Simulation Demonstration 11/01 Dempsey
- DSFS Engine promo Interschtuz, of Hanover, Germany USA Trade show Oct. 2020
- Sussex Child Care Educational Conference 11/02/19 O'Malley, presentation
- SERT Response Sta. 72, MVC, oil spill 11/03/19 Wilson, Dempsey responded with Drone
- Sta. 21 Incident Review Kent Chiefs 11/13, Sussex Chiefs 11/21 Dempsey
- Slaughter Beach Fire Review 11/14 Dempsey

## **Programs/Courses**

## Figures in red are reference to last year's comparison of class attendance.

- Current Month
  - Engine Co. Operations 8 students (8 cancelled)
  - Truck Co. Operations 18 students (11)
  - Rope Rescue 14 students (11)
  - Firefighting Foam 4 students (2 cancelled)
  - o EVO KCD weekend 32 students
  - Fire Fighter Self Survival 15 students (20)
  - Vehicle Rescue 29 students (20)
  - o Certification Testing
    - Haz. Mat. Operations -4 students, Firefighter I/II -5 students
    - Fire Officer I 4 students, Safety Officer 2 students
  - EVO NCD evening 17 students
  - $\circ$  Custodial Fire Safety -87 (85)
  - Advanced Interior Brigade 13 students (4 cancelled)
  - Haz. Mat. Tech 24 hour 12 students
  - Brigade Leadership Skills 1 student (7) (cancelled)
  - Elevator Rescue 8 students (4 cancelled)
  - Drone Initial Certification 16 students (*new program*)
- Divisions Usage
  - New Castle Division 10 programs scheduled (12)
  - Kent Division 5 programs scheduled (4)
  - Sussex Division 10 programs scheduled (3)

## **EMS**

- Current Month
  - CEU programs 2 programs scheduled (5)
  - EMT Refresher 12 students NC Division (19), 14 KC Division (15), 6
     SC Division (5)
  - o Reciprocity 9 students

## Public Education and Injury Prevention - Activity Report

- Current Month
  - Fire Safety Programs 3 scheduled (2)
  - DSFS Tours 1 scheduled (5)
  - Fire Safety Displays (1)
  - Injury Prevention Programs 11 scheduled (5)
  - Injury Prevention Events 2 scheduled (1)

## <u>Maintenance – Building and Grounds</u>

- Rest Room project to begin on November 22, 2019. Trailer to be installed on the 18<sup>th</sup>. This project will begin Friday, November 22, 2019.
- The DSFS Roof bid has come in at \$598,468.00. This project should begin in less than a month.

#### **Financial**

- Past Due Billings
  - $\circ$  30 days -3.935.00
  - $\circ$  60 days -2,325.00
  - $\circ$  90 days -6,500.00
  - 120 days 16,820.00
- 20678 Tuition Fund 761,099.00
  - o Accounts receivable 42,178.00
- Revenue Comparison
  - o Tuition 2019 30,411.25, 2018 33,239.50
- Special Funds Summary The Special Funds Summary report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.
- Expenditure Report The Expenditure report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.

## **Staff and Office Staff Meeting Minutes**

Staff and office staff meeting minutes were submitted for Commission review.

## **Personnel Issues**

- 25 years State Service 08/1995 Chris Murabito It was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to recognize Chris Murabito for her 25 years of state service. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
- Introduce Michel Ingram, Maintenance Supervisor

## **Scheduled Activities**

• Director Newnam will be out of the agency on annual leave on 11/25-27 – In State

## REPORT OF THE BLS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Matthews reported that influenza B flu has been diagnosed in each County in a sporadic state. It's important that EMS personnel are encouraged to get vaccinated and follow infection control as well as document any flu like symptoms on patient care reports.

## REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATOR/COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- 7 Annual Ambulance Unit Inspections
- 5 New Unit Inspections
- 4 Complaints Received
- 3 Arrest Notifications were received.
- 1 Fire Company Complaint Commission had no statutory authority.
- 0 Patient Care Issues
- 0 New Investigations
- 5 Open Cases from 2018
- 11 Open Cases from 2019

Request to close case numbers 1903, 1905, 1908, 1909, and 1919. It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Kelly to close Cases' 1903, 1905, 1908, and 1909. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Leonetti to request a revisit of Case 1919 by the Attorney General's Office. The Commission suggested that the case may require further information. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

<u>Case No. 1906 – Request to Lift Suspension</u>

Case #1906 has been rescheduled for the December meeting.

EMT Responder and EMT Level EMS Education Program Standards and Guidelines – Revision Review

The EMT Responder and EMT Level EMS Education Program Standards and Guidelines revision has been tabled until the December meeting.

#### Ambulance Regulation 710

The draft revised Ambulance 710 Regulation was circulated to the commissioners for review. The revised regulations along with an impact statement has been submitted to the Register of Regulations for publication. Most of the changes are non-subtenant. The change that included the impact statement will include requirements of NFPA 1917. The Commission agreed that all new ambulances will conform to NFPA 1917 by June 1, 2020.

## Ambulance Regulation 710 cont.

Refurbished units must be NFPA 1917 compliant by January 1, 2030. It was moved by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Leonetti to submit the regulations to the Register of Regulations with the discussed adjustments. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Election

It was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, seconded by Commissioner Betts to nominate Ron Marvel as Chairperson of the Fire Prevention Commission. With no other nominations, Ron Marvel is the elected Chairperson of the Commission. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Marvel to nominate Commissioner Leonetti for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Fire Prevention Commission. Commissioner Leonetti declined the nomination.

It was moved by Commissioner Kelly to nominate Commissioner Truitt for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Fire Prevention Commission. Chairman Roberts stated that Commissioner Truitt was not eligible to serve in the position because the rules state that the Chairman and Vice Chairman cannot represent the same county.

It was moved by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to nominate Commissioner Alan Robinson for the position of Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Robinson remains in his current position as Vice Chairman.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## Cranston Heights 100th Year Anniversary

It was moved by Commissioner Betts, seconded by Commissioner Leonetti to send a letter to Cranston Heights Fire Company recognizing them for their 100 years of service. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **Working Group**

The three members that Chairman Roberts appointed to the working group met on November 18, 2019 at the Cheswold Fire Company. The working group that consists of three DVFA members and three Fire Prevention Commissioners began the discussion on firefighter standards, fire department standards, legislation and the possibility of expanding the authority of the Commission for additional oversite of the fire service. The discussed where they want to go with the disposition from the Mill Creek Fire Company letter. There will be another meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware State Fire School and opened to the public.

Tom Dicristofaro shared that he has a concern that the group has five sitting Past Chief's. He's concerned that the diversity of the committee will not be viewed well in everyone's eyes. Chairman Roberts stated that additional people can be added to the committee if it's determined that additional members are needed. President Jones, DVFA commented that this is why they've determined bringing the committee to the public is in the best interest of the service. There are no back door meetings happening with regard to these discussions.

#### Odessa Fire Company

Ms. Lambertson informed the Commission that Odessa Fire Company has not submitted their audit by the deadline for their company. Ms. Lambertson will schedule a Rule to Show Cause Hearing in December.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### Prime Care Medical Transport, LLC

Larry Bradley, CEO and Karen Fry, CFO of Prime Care Medical Transport, LLC. Notified the Fire Prevention Commission in writing of the closing of their business as of October 16, 2019. They will no longer be in business as a BLS provider and have fulfilled all of their obligations to their vendors that they were committed to. They reported that it was a pleasure to be a part of the EMS System in Delaware for over the twenty two years.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

## **EMT Class Approvals**

There are EMT classes that have been submitted to the Commission for approval through OEMS as well as one request for a fire company to become an instruction facility. Both of these are under review and the Commission will be kept apprised.

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

## Vice Chairman Robinson

Vice Chairman Robinson reported that he attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, Citizens Hose Fire Company Meeting, Citizens Hose Board of Director Meeting, DEMSOC Meeting, and Kent County Volunteer Firefighters Association Meeting.

#### **Commissioner Truitt**

Commissioner Truitt reported that she attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, Sussex County Chief's Meeting and Lewes Fire Company Fire Safety.

## **Commissioner Marvel**

Commissioner Marvel reported that he attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, Kent County Meeting, Sussex Chiefs Meeting, Sussex Firefighters Meeting, Seaford Meeting, Sussex Callboard Meeting, Recruitment & Retention Committee Meeting, Sprinkler DEMO at DSFS, Meeting in Georgetown with Sussex County Finance Director, Budget Hearing, Judge Fire Prevention Posters & Essays in Georgetown, Washington DC for Retirement Reception, Sussex County Budget Meeting, and Millcreek Working Group in Cheswold.

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## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

December 17, 2019 – 9:00 AM Commission Chamber Delaware Fire Service Center 1463 Chestnut Grove Road Dover, DE 19904

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Truitt that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry R. Lambertson

Sherry R. Lambertson Executive Specialist

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